

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

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Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A magnesium compound substantially comprising a magnesium dialkoxide, prepared by reacting metallic magnesium, an alcohol and at least 0.0001 gram atom, in terms of halogen atoms relative to one gram atom of magnesium, of a halogen and/or a halogen-containing metal compound, at 30° to 60° C.

Claim 2. (Original) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the halogen is iodine.

Claim 3. (Original) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the halogen-containing compound is magnesium chloride.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A solid magnesium compound substantially comprising a magnesium ~~alkoxide~~ dialkoxide, whose particle size distribution index (P), as defined in formula (I-1), is smaller than 4.0,  $P < 4.0$ :

$$P = (D_{90}/D_{10}) \quad (I-1)$$

wherein  $D_{90}$  indicates the particle diameter of the compound particles corresponding to the cumulative weight fraction of 90 % in the particle size distribution thereof computed from light transmittance through a suspension of the compound particles in a hydrocarbon; and  $D_{10}$

indicates the particle diameter of the compound particles corresponding to the cumulative weight fraction of 10 % therein.

Claims 5-7. (Withdrawn)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A magnesium compound substantially comprising a magnesium dialkoxide prepared by reacting metallic magnesium, an alcohol and at least 0.0005 gram atoms, in terms of halogen atoms relative to one gram atom of magnesium, of a halogen and/or a halogen-containing metal compound, in the presence of a saturated hydrocarbon compound.

Claim 9. (Original) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the halogen is iodine.

Claim 10. (Original) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the halogen-containing compound is magnesium chloride.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A solid magnesium alkoxide compound substantially comprising a magnesium ~~alkoxide~~ dialkoxide, whose particle size distribution index (P), as defined in formula (I-1), is smaller than 4.0,  $P < 4.0$ :

$$P = (D_{90}/D_{10}) \quad (I-1)$$

wherein  $D_{90}$  indicates the particle diameter of the compound particles corresponding to the cumulative weight fraction of 90 % in the particle size distribution thereof computed from light transmittance through a suspension of the compound particles in a hydrocarbon; and  $D_{10}$  indicates the particle diameter of the compound particles corresponding to the cumulative

weight fraction of 10 % therein, and whose particles have a sphericity (S), as defined in formula (I-2), of smaller than 2.0,  $S < 2.0$ :

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$$S = (L_1/L_2)^3$$

wherein  $L_1$  indicates the major diameter of the magnesium compound particle prepared by imaging the compound through scanning electronic microscopy followed by analyzing the projected image of the particle, and  $L_2$  indicates the diameter of the circle having the same area as the projected area of the magnesium compound particle.

Claims 12-22. (Withdrawn)

Claim 23. (Previously Added) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.

Claim 24. (Previously Added) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A magnesium compound substantially comprised of magnesium dialkoxide prepared by reacting a combination of reactants consisting essentially of metallic magnesium, a  $C_{1-6}$ -aliphatic hydrocarbyl alcohol and at least 0.0001 gram atoms, in terms of halogen atoms relative to one gram atom of magnesium, of a halogen and/or a halogen-containing metal compound, at 30° to 60° C.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A magnesium compound substantially comprised of magnesium dialkoxide prepared by reacting a combination of reactants consisting essentially of metallic magnesium, a  $C_{1-6}$ -aliphatic alcohol and at least 0.0001 gram atoms, in terms of halogen atoms relative to one gram atom of magnesium, of a halogen and/or a halogen-

containing metal compound, at 30° to 60° C.

D1  
Claim 27. (Previously Added) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gram atom content of halogen is less than 0.06 gram atoms.

Claim 28. (Previously Added) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the amount of alcohol ranges from 5 to 50 mols relative to one mole of magnesium.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) A magnesium compound substantially comprised of magnesium dialkoxide prepared by reacting metallic magnesium, a C<sub>1-6</sub>-aliphatic alcohol and at least 0.0005 gram atoms, in terms of halogen atoms relative to one gram atom of magnesium, of a halogen and/or a halogen-containing metal compound, in the presence of a saturated hydrocarbon compound.

Claim 30. (New) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 1, which is prepared by reacting metallic magnesium, an alcohol and 0.0001 to 0.06 gram atom, in terms of halogen atoms relative to one gram atom of magnesium, of a halogen and/or a halogen-containing metal compound.

D2  
Claim 31. (New) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ratio of halogen or a halogen compound to magnesium, on a gram atom basis, is 0.019 or less.

Claim 32. (New) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the mean particle size ranges from 38 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 33. (New) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 8, which is prepared by reacting metallic magnesium, an alcohol and 0.0005 to 0.06 gram atom, in terms

of halogen atoms relative to one gram atom of magnesium, of a halogen and/or a halogen-containing metal compound.

D2  
Claim 34. (New) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the ratio of halogen or a halogen compound to magnesium, on a gram atom basis, is 0.019 or less.

Claim 35. (New) The magnesium compound as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the mean particle size ranges from 38 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 36. (New) A magnesium alkoxide compound prepared by reacting metallic magnesium, an alcohol and 0.0001 to 0.06 gram atom, in terms of halogen atoms relative to one gram atom of magnesium, of a halogen and/or a halogen-containing metal compound, at 30° to 60° C, the particulate magnesium alkoxide compound obtained having a mean particle size ranging from 38 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , a degree of sphericity S of less than 2 and a particle size distribution index (P) of less than 4.0.

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